

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendment be entered, at least because it raises no new issues requiring further search or consideration.

Claims 1-14 and 16-21 are requested to be cancelled.

Claim 15 is currently being amended to be in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 13, from which it depended.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claim 15 is now pending in this application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 15 has been amended to be in independent form including all the limitations of independent claim 13, from which it depended. Thus, claim 15 is now in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13, 17, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,060,686 to Jones (hereafter "Jones") in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA). Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,632,955 to Cruickshank et al. (hereafter "Cruickshank"). These rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 13, 17-19 and 21.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance.
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date September 1, 2004

By Thomas G. Bilodeau

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

Thomas G. Bilodeau
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,438